

MINUTES

Present: M. Bluechardt (Chair), P. Barry-Mercer, A. Benzaquén, P. Cantelo, A. Card, E. Church, P. Cormier-MacBurnie, P. Crouse, T. Findlay, D. Fisher, T. Harriott, T. Harrison, E. Henderson, B. Jessop, K. Kienapple, G. MacDonald, J. MacLeod, M. McGonnell, M. Mitchell, S. Orlov, S. Perrott, D. Plumb, K. Ritchie, S. Seager, J. Sharpe, D. Shiner, B. Taylor, R. Zuk

Regrets: R. Farmer, N. Jamieson, N. Kayhani, S. MacIntosh, C. Matta, D. Séguin, J. Wallace

Guests: G. Batten, K. Steele

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m.; invited guest/presenter, K. Steele, was welcomed and later in the meeting, observer, G. Batten, was acknowledged.

1. Indigenous Land Recognition

M. Bluechardt provided an acknowledgement that the Mount is built on traditional unceded Mi'kmaq territory and paid respect to the Indigenous peoples of the land on which Senate meets.

2. Approval of Agenda

Given the late circulation of the enrollment report, K. Ritchie questioned whether the presentation should be deferred to the next meeting. It was agreed that because the presentation is based on the AAU enrollment numbers that were made public in October, the presentation will proceed as planned; follow-up questions will be addressed at the next Senate meeting. It was also agreed that presenters take adequate time in presenting the data to enable the absorption of the information.

Moved by S. Orlov, seconded by D. Shiner, to approve the agenda as circulated.
CARRIED

3. Approval of minutes of October 26, 2018

Moved by K. Kienapple, seconded by E. Church, to approve the meeting minutes of October 26, 2018, as circulated. CARRIED

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

No business arising.

5. President's Announcements

The President acknowledged and expressed appreciation to all who attended, participated in, and/or assisted in the planning of the 2018 fall convocation and contributed to the overall success of the students. As well, she spoke to the first meetings of the Vice-President Academic and Provost and the Dean of Arts and Science

search committees, stressed the importance of consultation in the process, and encouraged senators to forward any recommended candidates to Search Consultant, Laverne Smith and Associates, for consideration.

She then spoke of efforts to date to populate the Strategic Planning Work group, including five faculty positions; a broad list of responsibilities for the Strategic Planning Work Group was displayed and outlined. A final draft of the Strategic Plan is expected to be ready for approval by Senate and the Board of Governors late 2019.

Finally she updated Senators on the Town Hall session held earlier in the day and provided an update on the United Way Campaign (at 54% of \$25K goal).

6. Question Period

D. Shiner questioned what terms and conditions will apply to the group of Saudi students returning in January and about faculty who may object to teaching the Saudi students on the basis of the ethical and moral situation in the Kingdom.

P. Barry Mercer responded that information surrounding these students is not clear at this time. These students are currently working with the Saudi Bureau in Ottawa to figure out how they will complete their studies in the time allotted (end of the term). It is possible for students with 4-5 courses remaining to complete them before the end of the term; however, students with a larger number of classes may not. With regard to faculty objecting to teaching the Saudi students, she noted that it would be difficult to disadvantage students in their fourth year for something that is not their fault.

E. Church added that while the Mount may not agree with the governments of all 77 countries it receives students from, the University would not seek to disadvantage any student coming from those countries.

P. Cormier questioned, in light of an impending labour action, what would happen to critical research in labs during this time period. G. MacDonald advised that while labor action is possible (not imminent), planning is underway to ensure that research and critical products are maintained should a labour disruption occur. Researchers are being contacted and requirements being recorded; lab safety protocols are in place in all labs, and compliance requirements (and responsibility) related to accreditation through the Canadian Council on Animal Care are being considered.

T. Findlay questioned the protocol related to the Child Study Centre in the case of a labour dispute. B. Jessop advised that a protocol is being developed that will address particular areas that should still be accessible (i.e. Health Centre, Child Study Centre, etc.) in the case of a strike. It is the University's intent that there would be special access to these areas.

J. MacLeod and K. Ritchie questioned a timeline for staffing requests for departments. E. Church advised that it will be finalized as soon as possible.

7. Committee Reports (Standing and Ad Hoc)

7.1. Senate Executive

7.1.1. Revision to Procedure 8 of Policy on Policies (for information)

T. Harriott directed Senators to the memo within the meeting materials outlining the revision to Policy on Policies Procedures #8. She pointed out the revision that will see committees/persons responsible for the Senate policies reporting to the Secretary of Senate whether policies being reviewed should be retained as is, revised, or retired.

R. Zuk, recognizing that this part of the document is a procedure and not a policy, questioned how Senate discusses such an item and when and where Senate has input into these decisions. T. Harriott clarified that the change is a procedural change only and does not require Senate approval; if the policy itself was being changed, it would require Senate approval. E. Church noted that, though the item is for information only, if enough Senators thought it warranted further consideration, the item could be brought back to Senate Executive; there was no indication that Senators thought this was necessary.

7.2. Graduate Studies Program and Policy

7.2.1. Revisions to Academic Standing (Graduate Studies) Policy

S. Seager directed Senators to page 16 (clean copy) regarding the plurality of “students/the student” (last paragraph). A brief discussion was held on an additional (but similar) edit to be made to the introductory sentence under the heading “Policy” and other instances where the changes appear to be made. It was agreed that the clean copy is not clean. (R. Zuk, K. Ritchie)

T. Harriott suggested a friendly amendment to the policy to remove the word “student”, thereby revising wording to “If students do not meet these standards, they will be...” This friendly amendment was accepted.

Moved by K. Kienapple, seconded by P. Cantelo, that Senate approve the revisions to the Academic Standing (Graduate Studies) Policy to reflect the calendar entry revision that was previously approved by Senate on September 29, 2017. GSPPC requests the revision to be effective immediately and for a five-year term. CARRIED

7.3. Research and Publications

7.3.1. Early Career Research Award

T. Harriott questioned, with the lengthy process to get people on committees, why CRP committee members are asked to resign rather than recuse themselves if they are nominated for the award. Later in discussions, she noted that the Award for Research Excellence contains the same wording and that the teaching awards are silent on the matter.

She questioned whether the existing research award (and all awards) should be revised to include similar wording. E. Church added that SCOTL is also discussing this matter for the teaching awards.

K. Ritchie questioned eligibility wording within the document that states *“The research contributions evaluated for this award must show affiliation with Mount Saint Vincent University”* and suggested that it may preclude researchers who have conducted research at other universities.

G. MacDonald explained that this is meant to ensure that the award is given to researchers whose research was primarily done at the Mount.

G. MacDonald offered to take the award document back to CRP for further consideration.

Moved by G. MacDonald, seconded by K. Ritchie, that Senate approve the Early Career Research Award, to be effective once approved by Senate, and further that the Call for Nominations for the first award be announced in January 2019, to permit the first award to be awarded at Spring Convocation 2019. (Withdrawn)

Following discussions above, the motion was withdrawn:

Moved by G. MacDonald, seconded by T. Harriott, that the motion be withdrawn. CARRIED

7.4. University Research Ethics Board

7.4.1. Effective Dates for Approved UREB Policy Changes

Moved by G. MacDonald, seconded by T. Harriott, that the revisions to Policy UREB 2012-01, Research Ethics Policy for Research Involving Human Participants, and UREB 2012-02, Research Ethics Compliance Policy, approved at the September 28, 2018, meeting, come in to effect immediately. CARRIED

8. Other Reports

8.1. Students' Union

In N. Jamieson's absence, M. Mitchell spoke to Students' Union (SU) initiatives including work on Bylaws and policies, changes to the structure of the SU, support of the Faculty Association, and participation in a roundtable with the Government. On a personal level, she highlighted her attendance at the Canadian Federation of Students' conference, noted her participation on the Vice-President Academic and Provost Search Committee, and asked Senators to refer Graduate and Education students interested in participating on SU Council to the SU President.

In response to a question raised by R. Zuk on Students' Union discussions with Halifax Transit regarding the cancelled #18 bus route, M. Mitchell advised that while a decision has not been made on the #18 route, Halifax Transit has agreed to increase the frequency of some other routes to aid Mount students in transportation.

9. New Business

9.1. Enrollment Update

Senators were directed to the presentation circulated to them prior to the meeting. The presentation is based on the enrollment data outlined in the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) October 1, 2018, Snapshot and recruitment strategies being used to further diversify the student body.

Prior to reviewing the AAU data, a fall snapshot of unit counts in the undergraduate (- 0.6%), graduate (0.5%), and Education (22.3%) programs was reviewed. Overall, there was an increase in enrollment of 1.5%.

The AAU Enrollment Snapshot was reviewed, and the University was graphically compared with other Metro universities regarding student count (FT/PT undergraduates, first-year undergraduates, and full-time Visa students). It was noted that the total full-time, first-year undergraduate student numbers exclude transfer students; this disadvantages the Mount because this year the University had more incoming transfer students than high school students.

A five-year comparison of fall enrollment (2014-2018) was reviewed, and trends for FT/PT Undergraduate and Graduate, High School and Transfer students over the period were compared and discussed; the strength of the BEd program was noted. Total enrollment in the fall is down 7% over the last five years but stable over the past three years.

A brief discussion was held on the substantial increase at Cape Breton University (CBU) in the number of students from India. The Mount is expecting approximately 15-30 students from India in January; support efforts for these students were noted. Other brief discussions were held on the decrease in international students, in part due to the withdrawal of the Saudi students, and diversified efforts to lessen the impact of the withdrawal of the Saudi students. (D. Shiner, J. MacLeod)

The increase in self-identified Aboriginal students and students of African descent (2013-2018) was highlighted and briefly discussed. A question arose and clarification was provided on the number of NS students of African descent and concern of the NS Department of Education with equity gaps specific to these two demographics. The increased comfort level of students self-identifying was noted in relation to the increased numbers. (K. Ritchie, S. Seager)

K. Steele, Manager, International Recruitment, outlined the goals of the presentation and reiterated that the data includes international undergraduate students only (on study permits), reflects confirmed students (percentages) to the Mount (those who have paid deposits), and is based on percentage of international first-year students at the Mount. The presentation is meant to be a visual representation of the University's efforts to increase diversification of the countries from which the Mount recruits its students.

Changes in international enrollment trends over the years 2014, 2016, and 2018 were reviewed and compared with a view to the efforts underway to increase the number of countries from which the Mount draws students. The University's recruitment strategies, including relationship building with international high schools and the use of third-party partnerships (agents), were outlined. The University's agreements with colleges and universities in China, markets that are a good fit for the Mount, lessons learned from not diversifying, and the move into new countries were discussed.

In conclusion, a view of projected diversification for 2020 was reviewed, and areas of projected growth were highlighted. Despite being unable to predict future government programs, political/economic changes, or study permit issuance rates, the Mount's recruitment team is continuing its efforts to ensure worldwide diversification through slow, steady, responsible growth.

During the course of the presentation, questions and concerns were raised and brief discussions were held on:

- the need for both diversification and growth;
- the challenges in the issuance of study permits in specific countries;
- the relevance of graphics within the presentation to show diversification efforts of the Mount's recruitment strategy;
- the risk associated with not diversifying;
- the importance in looking at country-specific admissions requirements in keeping the Mount in line with other institutions;
- the use of MATH 0020 in admitting students to the University;
- the need for broader international education outreach work to avoid western colonialism of knowledge;
- the identification of like-minded institutions and locations in China and other countries that would be a good fit for the Mount;
- the use of joint research projects, faculty exchanges, study tours, and/or teaching abroad opportunities to create a more holistic education experience and broader educational outreach;
- funding opportunities through the tri-council to support studying abroad;
- the Mount's commitment and efforts to protect international students against predatory recruitment strategies and practices;
- Nova Scotia's differential fees versus other provinces in Canada;

- the very involved application process undertaken in securing recruitment agents, including references from three Canadian universities; and
- the process used in choosing countries in which to diversify;

Senators were encouraged to:

- Advise of opportunities in other countries where they or other faculty may be conducting research that could provide a student with invaluable experience and exposure to an international education opportunity.
- Advise of international conferences they may be participating in where they could possibly connect informally with students, alumnae, etc., to help support international recruitment efforts.
- Participate in the Multicultural Dinner planned and hosted by the International Student Centre.

(Participants within the questions/concerns/discussion included J. MacLeod, S. Seager, K. Ritchie, P. Barry Mercer, P. Cantelo, D. Shiner, E. Church, M. Mitchell, M. Bluechardt, G. MacDonald, and K. Steele.)

At the February/March meeting P. Barry Mercer will provide a more thorough enrollment update, including quantitative data. In response to concerns about the format of the presentation, it was agreed that the AAU Snapshot, originally circulated in October, be recirculated to Senators.

10. Items for Communication

Senate approved

- Minutes of the October 26, 2018, meeting
- Revisions to the Academic Standing (Graduate Studies) Policy
- New effective dates for two UREB policy changes: Research Ethics Policy for Research Involving Human Participants and Research Ethics Compliance Policy

Senate received for information

- A change to Procedure 8 of Policy on Policies
- Enrollment report

11. Adjournment

Senators M. McGonnell and A. Benzaquén, whose terms are ending, were recognized and acknowledged for their commitment to Senate.

Moved by J. MacLeod, seconded by D. Shiner, that the meeting be adjourned. CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.